

Approved Minutes
Friend of the Court Bureau
Advisory Committee Annual Meeting
State Court Administrative Office – Lansing, MI
Thursday, February 9, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. William Brooks, Lynn Bullard, Murray Davis, Patti Holden, Fred Lebowitz, Hon. Mabel Mayfield, Anthony Paruk, Shawn Perry, Erin House and Suzanne Hoseth

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Numa Cabrera

STAFF PRESENT: Dan Wright and Steve Capps

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:54 p.m.

- a. Appointments to Committee – Shawn Perry, Deputy FOC in Ingham County, Erin House, a Policy Analyst at the Michigan House of Representatives, and Numa Cabrera, a practicing psychiatrist in Ann Arbor, MI.

2. Routine Business

- a. Approval of October 6, 2005 Minutes - A motion was made to approve the October 6, 2005 Annual minutes. Ms. Perry made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Paruk seconded the motion. Motion passed.
 - i. A motion was made to approve the October 6, 2005 minutes. Mr.Paruk made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Lebowitz seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- b. Public Comment
 - i. Jules Hanslovsky – He is a Family Law practitioner and is attending the meetings as a representative of the Family Law Section of the Michigan State Bar.
- c. Correspondence – None.

3. Unfinished Business

- a. Role of the Friend of the Court Advisory Committee
The Committee met with the FOCB staff prior to this meeting, and it was discussed that the Advisory Committee will continue to serve it's role as Advisory to the Bureau.

- b. Report of Sub-committee on Parenting Time Orders Violation Enforcement
Mr. Davis indicated to the Committee Mr. Lebowitz and himself gathered various information on Parenting Time Orders Violation Enforcement. They used Oakland and Genesee county statistics, as well as other general statistics that were available. Due to budget constraints, many FOC offices do not have employee(s) to serve in this function. Parenting time and custody is enforced and funded differently county by county, if at all.

FOCB Customer Service Unit

Ms. Beatty introduced herself and the customer service clerks that answer FOC calls in the Bureau. There are 4 clerks, and they are third year law students at MSU Law school. The clerks assist the Bureau in answering phone calls, research, and various day to day inquiries in the Bureau. The Committee asked the clerks what type of phone calls they receive, the volume and their experiences of the types of problems, concerns FOC litigants have. Ms. Beatty will provide a summary of the types of telephone calls the clerks receive at the next meeting.

Mr. Davis recommends that data and statistics be merged so that an accurate report of what the FOC receives is reported accurately. The SCAO has suspended the SCAO 41 report that FOCs were required to submit annually. The subcommittee has fulfilled its purpose.

4. New Business

- a. Update of filling vacancies on Advisory Committee

The vacancies have been filled. The Committee thanks the Bureau staff for filling the vacancies.

- b. Relationship between Advisory Committee and the Friend of the Court Bureau

The Committee will continue to Advise the Friend of the Court Bureau.

- c. Discussion of Advisory Committee members making comments to the public

Dr. Brooks cautioned that the remarks made by a Committee member is not reflective of the Advisory Committee as a whole.

- d. Summary of Federal Mandates and Funding

Mr. Capps provided the Committee with a handout explaining Federal Mandates and Funding.

e. Discussion of Hot topics

Dr. Brooks provided the Committee with a handout of standards for parenting time guidelines throughout the state of Michigan that was previously provided by Ms. Howard for informational purposes.

b. Closing

- a. Members Closing Comments – None.
- b. Final Public Comment – Mr. Janslovsky stated that he believes the Committee serves an important function and in the interim works with FOCs as well.
- c. Next Meeting Date – June 22, 2006
- d. Adjourn - the meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darla Brandon